

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00873 261052Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /021 W
-----056829 261322Z /75

R 260912Z APR 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6072

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0873

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, IZ
SUBJECT: BAKR'S HEALTH

REF: BAGHDAD 738, BAGHDAD 788

1. AMBASSADOR WHO RECENTLY MET WITH BAKR DESCRIBED HIM AS VERY FRAIL. PRESIDENT SEEMED PREOCCUPIED AND UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON MATTERS BEING DISCUSSED. AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD SOME MEDICAL TRAINING IN HIS YOUTH, NOTED WHEN HE GRASPED PRESIDENT'S ARMS IN FAREWELL THAT THERE WAS ALMOST NO FLESH ON HIS BONES.
 2. NONETHELESS, PRESIDENT IS MAINTAINING A FAIR LEVEL OF PUBLIC VISIBILITY. HE RECENTLY VISITED SITE OF HAMRIN DAM, 80 KM FROM BAGHDAD, AND WAS PHOTOGRAPHED INSPECTING PROJECT.
 3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT BAKR IS APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO GIVE IN TO COMBINATION OF ILLNESS AND BEREAVEMENT. CAREFUL MEDIA PORTRAYAL OF HIS DETERMINATION TO STAY ON THE JOB SEEMS CALCULATED TO DAMPEN SPECULATION ABOUT SUCCESSION PROBLEMS.
- MACK

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Reference: 78 BAGHDAD 738, 78 BAGHDAD 788
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Subject: BAKR'S HEALTH
TAGS: PINR, IZ, (AL-BAKR, AHMAD HASAN)
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